

## **Fayetteville Homeschool Christian Athletics Parent & Player Contract**

*The Bible is the only inspired, authoritative, infallible and inerrant word of God. Its very words are God-breathed. It is both necessary and sufficient to teach not only about our salvation but also about the conduct of our lives.*

We at FHCA believe that character is one of the most important qualities of any athlete.

Character traits that can be developed through sports include attentiveness, industriousness, punctuality, responsibility, willingness to learn, a servant's heart, graciousness, sportsmanship, teamwork, friendliness, encouragement, acceptance and deference (just to name a few). Athletes will be expected to strive for these qualities at practices and games if they desire to maintain their team status.

### **Attendance**

Players are required to notify the coach if they are to miss a practice. To ensure the team's optimum performance, players need to practice as much as possible. If a player misses one or more consecutive practices without notifying the coach, said player may not participate in the next game or match. Even though we are a competitive organization, it is more important to instill the right values in our players than to win games. Regardless of ability, this applies to all players.

If a player has an excused absence (like a dentist appointment or a family vacation) it will be up to the coach's discretion as to when to play he or she in the next game. Despite the fact that it is an excused absence, the coach still must be notified verbally. Assuming the coach will know or understand defeats the purpose of an excused absence. If the coach is not notified, it will be treated as an unexcused absence. This rule comes back to the point that those practicing and working hard deserve the playing time.

### **Playing Time**

Playing time is not guaranteed. Playing time is a privilege and not a right. However, it is usually in the best interest of the team for everyone to receive an earned amount of playing time. In other words, work hard with a good attitude and you will play. In all circumstances having to do with playing time as an issue, the coach is considered the head authority. It is not appropriate for players or parents to question the coach on his or her decisions concerning playing time. They are doing what is best for the team and will be treated as doing such.

### **Conduct, Concern and Complaint**

It will be expected that the players, when at practice, provide their full, undivided attention. Due to the limited number of practices (compared to the teams we compete against), every minute of practice time is crucial. Not paying attention, side conversations, and blatant disrespect will not be tolerated.

We encourage parent participation in most aspects of our organization, and we have great respect for the efforts of all players and their guardians. However, the following policy is to protect everyone from him or herself (parents, players and coaches alike).

Over the course of the season, disagreements occur between players, parents and staff. Please observe the following guidelines in resolving these issues:

- Do not address the coach asking when a player is playing (or not playing) in a game. The amount of time any given athlete is on the court (or field) is the result of complex determination, in that coach's opinion, of the athlete's ability, potential, the team's needs at the moment and the team's needs in the future. We will not ask our coaches to defend his or her thought process or conclusions in making these determinations, and it is improper for a parent to request that.
- Unless the matter absolutely requires immediate attention, refrain from voicing your concerns on a game day. Violations of this guideline will be dealt with accordingly.
- It is not appropriate for an athlete or parent to complain to any other FHCA member. Asking un-involved persons to take sides in an issue is unfair to those third parties and the organization. Competitive team athletics, by its very nature, creates situation where everyone may not be happy all the time.
- As a Christian team, we expect the players to act like Christians. Immoral sexual conduct by team members will not be tolerated. This will result in **immediate dismissal from the team.**
- Physical contact with opposing players and teammates will occur during games and practices. However, physical attacks on opposing players and teammates will not be tolerated. Players guilty of this face the following consequence:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> incident: 1 game suspension**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> incident: removal from the team**
- Physically attacking any coaches, referees, any game officials or spectators of any age will result in an automatic dismissal from the team.
- Arguing with coaches at practice or games. During practices and games emotions will run high, but all players must remain respectful of coaches from both teams, referees, game officials and spectators. If players can not control their emotions the following actions will occur:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> incident 1 game suspension not including game being played if incident occurs during a game**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> incident removal from the team.**
- The use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco products by team members are not allowed. Use of these items will result in immediate removal from the team. Parents are also asked to refrain from the use of these substances while participating in team functions (fund-raisers, games, practices, dinners or team social gatherings).
- All clothing of players should be in good taste, modest and without questionable slogans. Players will be asked to leave the facilities if this is violated.

**Parent Spectators**

Far more than the winning and losing are the lessons learned in the process of competitive play. We ask that your role from the sidelines and stands match that which we are developing through our program.

- Keep only POSITIVE support, encouragement, cheering and general hollering and yelling to a MAXIMUM on the sidelines. When players are working hard, they need and deserve everyone’s best positive encouragement and support. They need to know you are there and that you support them.
- Public criticism of players on your team (or the other team, for that matter), hurts morale. Criticizing the referee only hurts your team and the organization. Please represent FHCA well by keeping rude, loud and unwelcome comments to yourself.
- Transportation is a parent’s responsibility. Carpooling is encouraged
- Be aware that the athlete will be held responsible for their parent’s actions. This means that if a parent breaks any rule or behaves inappropriately, their child can may be “sat” from play.

Decisions regarding conduct that result in suspensions or removal from the team may be appealed to the Athletic Director for arbitration. All decisions of the Athletic Director are final and will be honored by all parties.

Players and parents that wish to participate in this program must sign this contract. These signatures represent acknowledgment of these standards and a willingness to abide by these rules.

Observe these rules to ensure the best possible season for every team member, every family member and every coach.

Thank you and God Bless!

---

Parent Date

---

Player Date